Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1 Ex 8 2
No. 114

Extension Service Circular 114 November, 1929

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Canada, England and Wales, Denmark, Austria, Poland, and India

J. M. Stedman

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service.....C. W. WARBURTON *Director*
Office of Cooperative Extension Work.....C. B. SMITH *Chief*
Washington, D. C.

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics

Extension Service Circular 114 November, 1929.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

LIBRARY OF THE
OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS
NOV 26 1929
EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

Canada, England and Wales, Denmark, Austria, Poland, and India.

Abstracts from Recent Reports and Publications Received by
J. M. Stedman, Associate Agriculturist, Extension Studies,
Office of Cooperative Extension Work.

Contents

DISTRIBUTION: A copy of this circular has been sent to each extension director, State and assistant State county agent leader, State and assistant State home demonstration leader, State and assistant club leader, negro supervisor, State agricultural college library, and experiment station library.

5134

Canada

Nova Scotia

Boys' and girls' clubs. - During 1928 boys' and girls' club work made great progress, more communities being reached than ever before. There were 50 calf, pig, and poultry clubs, an increase of 9 over the previous year. The membership in these three projects was 736 against 646 in 1927. The greatest increase was in the calf clubs, of which there were 20 in 1928, against only 8 in 1927, the first year they were organized, and it was hoped that the number of clubs would reach 30 in 1929. A new feature of the calf club work was demonstrations at the Maritime Winter Fair where the teams made an excellent showing. At the provincial exhibition at Halifax the animals exhibited received a great deal of attention and the club members did themselves credit in handling and taking care of their calves and heifers. Though only 11 pig clubs were organized during the year with 143 members, while there were 25 clubs with 426 members in 1927, this decline is only apparent, as these clubs, started before the calf and poultry clubs, have to a great extent accomplished their object which was to standardize the bacon type hog and encourage community shipping. More attention is now being given to calf clubs to further the dairy industry and community breeding, and it must be noted that a good many sections of the province which are adapted to raising calves and poultry are not suited to pig-breeding. It is hoped soon to start swine litter competitions which is the project now to be promoted by the pig clubs. Poultry clubs, also organized for the first time in 1927, increased from 7 to 17 during the year 1928. Poultry club judging competitions at the Maritime Winter Fair were a new feature for Nova Scotia clubs. These three projects are conducted by the provincial Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the federal Livestock Branch. In the spring of 1929, at the meeting of the Provincial Seed Board, arrangements were made to organize potato clubs for boys and girls, the first crop project to be undertaken by the young people of the province. Plans adopted for organizing the work were similar to those used by the calf, pig, and poultry clubs. One-tenth of an acre must be raised by each member, though a larger plot is allowed, if desired, and only certified seed must be used. Fields that pass all inspections for certified seed render the club members eligible to prizes, 50 per cent of which will be awarded by the Dominion Seed Branch and 50 per cent by the Department of Natural Resources of Nova Scotia. Garment-making clubs were organized for the first time in the province in 1928 by the women's institutes. Demonstrations by teams composed of members selected from these 18 clubs were a feature of club work during the year. One of the signs of progress

Calf, pig, and poultry clubs

Potato clubs, garment-making clubs

Local leaders

in extension work in Nova Scotia, and this is particularly true of club work, is that more men and women in the community are giving their time to the work in order that their community may be benefited, financial returns increased through cooperative marketing, and boys and girls may have an opportunity to extend their practical education through club work. Older club members are being trained as local leaders.

Ontario

First appointment of home demonstrator in Canada

The home demonstrator. - In 1918, by way of experiment, the provincial department of agriculture appointed a domestic science graduate of Macdonald Institute to carry on home demonstration work in Peel County under the general direction of the agricultural representative. This was the first appointment of this kind made in Canada, and the Peel County demonstrator still has the distinction of being the only extension agent of this kind in Ontario, and in fact, in the Dominion. The title, "home demonstrator," suggested by the name "home demonstration agent" used in the United States is rather misleading when applied to the home economics agent in Ontario, as she does not do all the work, that is, the actual demonstrating. The demonstration work in home economics as well as the teaching of special branches of domestic science are left to the staff of home economics specialists in the Institutes Branch of the provincial Department of Agriculture. The special task of the home demonstrator is to bring the farm women into contact with these specialists. During the first few years after her appointment she found it difficult to handle all the requests for instruction, but now there is hardly a community in Peel County that has not taken advantage of every home economics course offered by the department. The home demonstrator does most of her own teaching in the home where she goes when requested to give advice in such subjects as remodeling the house, refurnishing the living-room, determining why canned products do not keep, and the like. Some idea of the way the work of the home demonstrator is increasing may be seen by the following comparison of figures for 1925 and 1928:

Duties of the home demonstrator

	1925	1928
Office callers.....	695	992
Telephone calls (incoming).....	1,100	1,500
Letters received.....	957	1,500
Letters sent.....	930	1,167
Circular letters issued.....	753	2,007
Bulletins distributed.....	580	3,538

	1925	1928
Meetings addressed.....	96	105
Attendance at these meetings.....	4,953	7,297
Special short courses.....	4	17
Schools visited.....	7	42
Rural homes visited.....	96	193
Newspaper articles contributed....	8	23
New organizations formed.....	1	5
Half days in office.....	269	186
Miles traveled by car.....	4,000	6,300

The increased number of office callers, telephone calls, attendance at meetings, rural homes visited, and miles traveled in 1928 is worthy of note.

Girls' work

One of the most important features of the home demonstrator's activity is her work with girls. She directs the junior institutes' work in the county which includes study and practice of home-making; garden, canning, and poultry clubs; contests in public speaking and debating; university extension courses; neighborhood or social service work, such as seeing that families of poor children are supplied with clothes during the winter and dinners provided for needy families at Christmas time. In 1928, there were 9 junior institutes in Peel County with 245 members. Sixty-seven meetings were held by the institutes, at which 99 addresses were given with an attendance of 2,232. There were 30 competitors in the garden and canning club, and 22 girls finished the project and exhibited their products at the county fair. Five members of the junior institutes received a two weeks' short course at Macdonald Institute with transportation, board, and lodging paid by the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

England and Wales

Advisory centers

Extension specialists. - A staff of specialists, with the title advisory officers, is maintained at each of the 14 advisory centers in England and Wales, for the express purpose of giving advice and assistance to farmers in their various branches in cases where the county organizer and his staff are unable to do so. The institutions at which these specialists are stationed, either an agricultural college, or the agricultural department of a university, and in one case a research institute, are as follows:

Advisory Centers	Counties served
Armstrong College, agricultural department, Newcastle-on-Tyne	Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, Westmoreland
University of Leeds, agricultural department	The Three Ridings of Yorkshire
Midland Agricultural and Dairy College, Sutton Bonington	Derby, Leicester, Lincoln (Lindsey district), Nottingham, Rutland
Cambridge University, school of agriculture	Bedford, Cambridge, Essex, Hertford, Huntingdon, Isle of Ely, Lincoln (Kesteven and Holland districts), Norfolk, Soke of Peterborough, East and West Suffolk
Oxford University, school of rural economy	North Hants, Oxford
Southeastern Agricultural College, Wye	Kent, Surrey, East and West Sussex
University of Reading, agricultural department	Middlesex, Berkshire, Buckingham, Dorset, Hants Isle of Wight
Seale Hayne Agricultural College, Newton Abbot	Devon, Cornwall, Isles of Scilly
Bristol University, Research Institute (1)	Gloucester, Hereford, Somerset, Wiltshire, Worcester
Harper Adams Agricultural College, Newport	Salop, Staffordshire, Warwick
University of Manchester, University of Liverpool (2)	Lancashire, Cheshire
University College of North Wales, agricultural department, Bangor	Anglesey, Carnarvon, Denbigh, Flint
University College of Wales, agricultural department, Aberystwyth	Brecon, Radnor, Cardigan, Carmarthen Merioneth, Montgomery, Pembroke
University College of South Wales and Monmouth, Cardiff	Glamorgan, Monmouth

(1) As there is no agricultural teaching department at Bristol University, some of the specialists are located at the Research Institute at Long Ashton, connected with the university.

(2) These two universities have the same advisory area. Four specialists - an economist, a chemist, an entomologist and a mycologist are stationed at the University of Manchester, and an adviser in veterinary science at the University of Liverpool.

Specialists and their duties

On April 1, 1928, there were 67 specialist advisory officers stationed at these centers - 13 extension specialists in chemistry, 10 in dairy bacteriology, 12 in agricultural economics, 14 in entomology, 14 in mycology, and 4 in veterinary science, all branches of science bearing directly on farm management. Nearly all of these men are university graduates of the same type as the scientists connected with the research institutes. Most of the advisory officers conduct local investigational work and also do a limited amount of teaching at the institution with which they are connected. Their special duties are to visit farmers to give them advice in matters which the county staff can not handle, hold lectures, and answer letters from farmers requesting information. The advisers must be thoroughly equipped with both scientific and local information in order to give reliable advice. They cooperate closely with the county agricultural staffs, serve as a link between these staffs and the research workers at the colleges and stations, and act as intelligence officers of the Ministry of Agriculture. In most cases their salaries and expenses are paid entirely by the Ministry. During 1927-28 funds for the maintenance of advisory centers in England and Wales amounted to 60,397 pounds (about $293,529).

Work of specialists in agricultural economics in 1927-28

The work that is being done by the specialists in agricultural economics in England and Wales is especially worthy of note. Though funds for this branch of the advisory service were provided only about four years ago, a great deal of interest is being shown in keeping cost accounts, which in some cases has led farmers to make changes in their farm business. Valuable information has been obtained as a result of cost accounting and of surveys made by the agricultural economists. In each of the four counties in the Armstrong College area, the specialist supervised during 1927-28 the preparation of cost accounts on one or two typical farms and the keeping of financial records by six farmers. Lectures were given in cost accounting to encourage farmers to keep accounts for comparative examination of the various farming systems practised in the area. A survey of results of sugar-beet growing and an inquiry regarding growing and selling seed potatoes were made during the year. In Yorkshire, the area of the University of Leeds, where the specialist had the accounts of 92 farms under examination, a great deal of valuable information was obtained. Some of this material has been published and much interest has been shown in the results obtained. The Yorkshire agricultural economist gave 47 lectures during the year. In the advisory area of the University of Reading, the economist supervised cost accounts on 16 farms. Statistical inquiries took the place of the laborious method of cost accounting. The farms were grouped according to type, and cost accounts kept on one or more representative ones, the statistical data from similar farms being compared with the detailed figures from the farms on which accounts were kept. In the advisory area of Scale Hayne Agricultural College accounts of the ordinary financial kind kept on 63 farms, showing the results of farming operations as a whole, have served as a basis

of study of the principal farming systems practised. Reports were sent to the farmers submitting accounts and useful suggestions were given, based on conclusions drawn from a comparison of the figures. The agricultural economist of Harper Adams Agricultural College made 120 farm visits in the three counties in his area during the year, supervised the keeping of cost accounts on 10 farms, and conducted a survey on production costs and returns from sugar-beet growing, which aroused a great deal of interest among the farmers. In Lancashire and Cheshire the specialist in agricultural economics conducted an investigation on the output of grassland during 1927-28, selecting for study 80 farms on which cheese was made or milk sold in the district where the largest number of dairy cattle was kept. Successful experiments were made on 7 farms where pasture land had been greatly neglected, and marked improvements in pastures was noted as a result. The economist at the University of Wales conducted two main lines of study in the seven counties of his area: production and farm management; marketing and cooperation. In the study of the latter subject begun April, 1927, a survey of the activities of the Welsh agricultural cooperative societies was made and the data obtained prepared for publication. The advisory work in this area consisted in making reports and giving advice to farmers regarding farm management, who cooperated with the department of agriculture of the university by providing material for ascertaining costs of production; and assisting cooperative societies to improve their organizations and overcome special difficulties. Demonstrations were conducted and courses, which were found to give better results than single lectures, were held from time to time.

Work of dairy bacteriologists

There were 10 dairy bacteriologists in 1928 in England and Wales. These specialists determine the kinds and number of bacteria in samples of milk and dairy products sent in by farmers who wish to ascertain whether their products meet the requirements of the Ministry of Health. Farmers who have had trouble with their milk also send in samples, and competitors in the clean milk competitions organized by county agricultural education authorities and supervised by the bacteriologists, submit samples from time to time during the competition which usually lasts several months. Charges are made for the examination but the advice and assistance, which includes investigation of conditions under which the milk is produced, are free. Every advisory center receives about 3,000 samples of milk for analysis during the year and over 100 visits are made annually to farms to give advice on producing clean milk and to make inspections. Courses are held for local sanitary inspectors, officials charged with the administration of milk regulations, and lectures are given to farmers.

Denmark

Instruction for rural women

Agricultural home management instruction for rural women and girls. - Instruction for rural women is provided through courses of longer or shorter duration held in schools for small farmers, agricultural schools, and home management schools; courses, lectures and other forms of instruction organized by the agricultural and small farmers' societies in collaboration with special home management associations; and trips arranged for small farmers to visit farms, especially small ones, which are models of successful farming.

Short courses for women held in schools

The short courses organized in the professional schools receive State aid in the form of allowances to the pupils. The courses last 6, 8, or 11 days, sometimes as long as three or four weeks, and the instruction includes cooking, utilization and preservation of fruits and vegetables, poultry-keeping, making dresses and other articles. In 1926-27, short courses were held in 6 home management schools, 4 small farmers' schools, 4 agricultural schools, 6 higher folk schools, 2 horticultural and 2 "postscolaire" schools. The attendance at these courses is constantly increasing. In 1926, allowances were granted to 535 women; in 1927, to 618; and in 1928, 972.

Courses and lectures provided by societies

Instruction for rural women provided by agricultural and small farmers' societies in collaboration with home management societies takes the form of itinerant home management courses and isolated lectures. The itinerant home management courses were first begun about 1900 under the auspices of the agricultural societies, and were later organized by small farmers' societies and home management associations. The instruction relates principally to home management work and is both theoretical and practical. The State grants allowances to needy pupils attending these courses. The isolated lectures deal with such subjects as home economics, poultry-raising, horticulture, and so forth. The societies give the farm women advice and assistance in keeping home accounts and encourage the organization of instructive home management expositions for regional or local agricultural competitions. This educational program is for the benefit of all women in regions where agricultural and small farmers' societies have organized home management instruction which is directed by home management commissions appointed by federations and local societies, and for women who are members of independent home management societies, which collaborate with agricultural and small farmers' societies. The necessary funds are furnished by the federations, or fees from local societies are used to defray expenses.

Since April, 1928, the State has made a contribution to the salaries of home management advisers, a staff of 14 being maintained.

Trips for small farmers

Trips arranged for small farmers to visit well-managed farms are now open to rural women and are considered very important in aiding the housewives on the small farms to contribute advantageously to the work of the farm. These trips which last two or three days, are arranged by the small farmers' societies and are conducted under the direction of a guide. A visit to an agricultural or folk high school often completes the itinerary of a trip. Funds are granted by the State to cover the expenses of these trips which in 1928 amounted to 39,888 kroner (about $10,769.75). In 1928, 934 men and women took advantage of small farmers' trips which together with the awarding of prizes to owners of small farms have contributed a great deal towards bringing about increased production.

Girls' clubs

Instruction for young country girls who are not able to attend the regular home management schools is provided by rural and domestic economy societies. Girls' clubs organized by the societies in cooperation with the International Education Board conduct a number of agricultural and home management projects under the leadership of advisers, men and women, employed by the societies. In 1927-28, 3,660 girls from 10 to 25 years of age carried on projects in care of kitchen gardens, growing turnips and beets, raising calves, milking, poultry-keeping, canning, cooking, sewing, and home industries. Since April, 1928, the State has contributed two-fifths of the money for the salaries of advisers.

Evening courses

The societies organize evening courses in home management, sewing and hygiene for girls of 14 years and over. These courses which were begun about two years ago, are attended by both town and country girls. Both the State and the departments make contributions for the teachers' salaries. In the country the courses are held in meeting-houses, school-houses, or in homes rather than in school kitchens. In 1927-28, there were 70 classes, attended by 1,313 pupils, 322 of whom were country girls.

A u s t r i a

Evening courses
itinerant courses

Agricultural home management instruction for rural women. The chamber of agriculture of Lower Austria organizes two kinds of agricultural home management courses for rural women - evening courses during the winter months and itinerant courses. The minimum age of admission to these courses is 16 years. The evening courses last four winter months, from the middle of November to the middle of March, with classes three times a week. The itinerant courses last

six weeks and the whole day is devoted to the instruction. Theoretical instruction in both the evening and the itinerant courses includes domestic science, nutrition, hygiene, dairying, poultry-keeping, and kitchen gardening. In the itinerant courses there is practical instruction which consists of kitchen work in the morning, and sewing two afternoons a week. For the itinerant courses the Chamber of Agriculture engages the teacher and provides the entire equipment - stove, kitchen utensils and dishes, and sewing machines - which is carried from place to place in portable kitchens. Most satisfactory results have been obtained from these home management courses, and their number is constantly increasing without any propaganda work. In 1924-25, six courses were held with an attendance of 110 pupils, while in 1928-29, there were 70 courses, with nearly 1,200 pupils. Measures are being taken to hold these courses regularly in every province of Lower Austria, in order to reach all young girls in the rural districts. The plan is to extend the length of the winter evening courses to 8 months, and of the itinerant courses to 8 weeks, and later to three months.

Poland

Courses by women's sections of agricultural societies

Agricultural home management instruction for rural women. - One of the principal functions of women's sections of agricultural organizations in Poland is to provide agricultural home management instruction for rural women who are not able to attend the regular schools of agriculture. The agricultural organizations in cooperation with the local diets employ instructresses who are permanently appointed to devote their time to teaching farm women. The women are, first of all, organized into groups of the women's associations which are sections of the agricultural organizations, as experience has shown that best results are obtained in this way. Courses are then organized, some lasting a few days and others, several months. In the shorter courses special subjects are taught, such as poultry-keeping, pig-raising, kitchen gardening, kitchen work, home industries, and hygiene. The longer courses handle the same subjects but in a broader manner, and in addition, instruction is given in pedagogics, cutting and sewing, in fact in all agricultural home management work which is discharged by farm women, and in social and cultural matters of a general nature. The instruction is theoretical as well as practical. The central organization of agricultural associations aids the local instructresses by elaborating plans of work, giving advice and suggestions, and publishing journals and pamphlets on special subjects. The instructresses spend part of their time in visiting farm homes to give the housewives individual advice according to local needs and conditions.

India

Bengal

The Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association for Women's Work. - The Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association for Women's Work is the central federation of the Mahila Samitis or women's institutes in Bengal, and was founded to perpetuate the memory and carry out the ideals of Mrs. Saroj Nalini Dutt, who in 1913 conceived the idea of organizing her countrywomen into societies of this kind. Mrs. Dutt, the wife of an Englishman in the Indian Civil Service, spent the greater part of her life in the country districts of Bengal and did everything in her power for the physical and social improvement of the women. She became convinced from her experience that the most satisfactory means of emancipating the rural women from their state of ignorance, illiteracy, and superstition was to organize them into groups, to be known as Mahila Samitis, or women's institutes, as similar as possible to women's institutes in England, and teach them how to work for their own uplift. In her capacity as a district officer's wife she organized four Mahila Samitis in three districts, and induced the wives of other government officials to start institutes in their districts, her aim being to organize a Mahila Samiti in every town and village of the province. After several years, in which the movement made very little progress, as the institutes were widely scattered and in some cases ceased to exist when organizers were obliged to change their residence without putting others in charge, Mrs. Dutt became convinced that a central organization was needed in Calcutta to direct and coordinate the work in the rural districts. Accordingly she made a strong plea for such an association, and was working for its establishment under the name of Bengal Mahila Samiti Federation when her death occurred on January 19, 1925. Her friends and admirers among her country people immediately took steps to carry out her wishes by founding a central association in Calcutta to show their appreciation of her work for the rural women of Bengal. The founding of the Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association gave the needed impetus to the movement and from 7 or 8 Mahila Samitis in 1925, the number increased to 158 in 1927, every district in Bengal but one having one or more institutes. The movement has become a national one, and each society is a real educational center as lectures, classes, study groups, and cottage industries form an important part of the program. The principles which guided the founder of the Samitis in her efforts to better the condition of the women of Bengal, especially those in the country districts, and which underlie the activities of the central association are:

Origin of women's societies

Founding of the central association

Principles underlying the movement

(1) The women of a nation are the fountains of its strength and its inspiration in every sphere of life.

(2) It is imperative that proper cultural and vocational education and training in laws of health and hygiene be provided for women as well as for all girls of school age.

(3) The interest and support of the women must be enlisted for adequate success in the matter of providing education for girls.

(4) Women must be organized into groups to work for their own improvement, and only through such organizations can the country women receive benefit from modern improvements, and aid in the betterment of the conditions of their home and social life.

(5) Women of the country districts, though for the most part illiterate and superstitious, respond readily to any effort for their improvement and to a direct appeal to organize themselves for this purpose.

The basic principle of the memorial association is that women should be organized into groups for their social, economic, and educational emancipation, should be awakened to a sense of their own responsibility to conduct uplift work instead of depending upon men, and should be induced to undertake a definite program for attaining this object. The main objects of this association are:

Objects of the association

(1) To aid in the establishment of Mahila Samitis in the towns and villages of Bengal for the purpose of furthering organized work among women for educational, social, and economic progress, and for conducting through them a vigorous campaign for the uplift of Bengal women.

(2) To aid in establishing a women's organization in Calcutta which will be a central federation of Mahila Samitis in the towns and villages, to direct and coordinate their activities.

(3) To teach useful arts and handicrafts to women in general and widows in particular and help them dispose of their products.

(4) To aid in organizing midwife training classes, baby clinics, and to induce trained midwives to practice under the auspices of Mahila Samitis at suitable centers in the province.

(5) To arrange for traveling lecturers, instructors and workers to aid Mahila Samitis in furthering the objects of the Memorial Association.

(6) To found free scholarships for the benefit of poor girls'in girls' schools and colleges in memory of the founder of Mahila Samitis.

(7) To induce girls' schools and colleges in Bengal to introduce the teaching of domestic sciences, domestic arts, and handicrafts.

(8) To aid in establishing girls' schools in the province under the auspices of the Mahila Samitis.

(9) To aid in establishing maternity wards in the dispensaries and hospitals of Bengal under the auspices of the institutes.

(10) To work for women's welfare generally.

Organization of Mahila Samitis

The Mahila Samitis are organized in the country districts of Bengal, are purely women's associations, and are managed entirely by women. The presidents, secretaries, and other officials are all women (in some cases English women have filled these positions) and the members of the executive committees are composed of the most capable women living in the districts of the institutes. The organization of a Mahila Samiti is very simple. Men or women in any locality who are interested in the movement arrange for a women's meeting at which the publicity officer of the central association with the aid of lantern slides explains the work being done by the Samitis all over Bengal and by similar organizations abroad. A president and a secretary are elected at once and a working committee of a few energetic women is organized for the administration of the institute. Each institute prepares its own by-laws, rules of admission, and program of work. The subscription fee for each member ranges from 4 annas (8 cents) to a rupee (32 cents) a year. Membership is open to women of every class, religion and caste living in the village or town. Each Samiti raises an average amount of about 50 rupees ($16.00) a year which is spent in constructive or educational work or in providing instruction in cottage industries. In 1927, a few institutes raised much larger amounts, ranging from 445 to 840 rupees ($142.40 to $268.80), but in only one instance was the entire amount spent. The Mahila Samitis, whether organized by the local people, or by the central association, work under the general supervision of the latter, with which they become affiliated by paying an annual amount of 3 rupees (96 cents) each.

Committees of the Memorial Association

The general committee of the association is composed of every man and woman in sympathy with the objects of the movement who pays an admission fee of 8 annas (16 cents) and an annual subscription of 6 rupees ($1.92), or a lump sum of 100 rupees ($32), which makes them either ordinary or life members. The business or management committee is composed of men and women elected each year by the members of the general committee and is assisted by the following standing committees composed of members of the business committee: school committee, finance standing committee, publicity standing committee, and entertainment standing committee.

Finances

The work of the association costs about 3,000 rupees ($960) a month. Six hundred and fifty rupees ($208) for the industrial school and 115 rupees ($36.80) for work in country districts are received each month from the government. The director of Public Health of Bengal made substantial grants during 1927, and funds were received from a number of district and subdivisional officers. The Calcutta Turf Club donated 2,000 rupees ($640) to the work of the association, and a business firm of the city subscribed 300 rupees ($96). In spite of the aid from the government, and donations by various bodies and individuals, the funds of the association are still inadequate for conducting its various lines of work, and it has been decided to raise an endowment fund of 2 lakhs (200,000 rupees, or $64,000).

Lines of work of the association

The central association has six lines of work, as follows:

(1) Propaganda work for organizing new Mahila Samitis,
(2) Directing and coordinating the work of the societies,
(3) Furnishing trained instructresses to teach cottage industries,
(4) Publishing a monthly journal,
(5) Maintaining a women's industrial school at Calcutta,
(6) Providing public lecturers on women's education and progress.

Work of publicity officers and trained instructresses in 1927

During 1927 the association conducted a great deal of propaganda work through its two publicity officers, who held about 300 women's meetings in various localities with a view to organizing new institutes. At these meetings lantern slide lectures were given by the officers on public health, hygiene, domestic economy, child welfare, and development of cottage industries. The requests for the organization of Samitis from various parts of the province were so numerous that the association appointed local honorary organizing secretaries to work in the country districts. Assistance in organizing

institutes was also given by natives holding public positions as well as by wives of public officials. The Bengal Social Service League, the Public Health Department of the Government of Bengal, District Boards, and other self-governing institutions assisted the association in directing and co-ordinating the work of the Samitis. The staff of 7 trained instructresses proved far too small to meet the demand for their services in teaching cottage industries in the country districts. It is felt that two more publicity officers and 10 more instructresses are required to meet the constantly increasing requests for the services of these workers.

Saroj Nalini Industrial School

The Saroj Nalini Industrial School, located at Calcutta, started in 1925 as a training center for women in cottage industries in co-operation with the Singer Sewing Machine Company, is managed by a committee under the direction of the association. In the period from 1925 to 1927, nearly 300 women received training in the school, 17 of whom completed the course and were ready for work in the country. In 1927, there were 126 pupils, - 29 widows, 51 married and 46 unmarried women. No girls under 12 are admitted to the school. The subjects taught are sewing, cutting, embroidery, lacemaking, carpet weaving, silk spinning, jute spinning, raffia basket-making, cotton weaving, tape making, cane work, painting, and drawing. There are also general educational classes and a religious and moral class. There is no charge for instruction, but a bus fee is required for conveyance to the school, except in the case of pupils who agree to become teachers in the school when they have finished their training. Pupils in the school have organized a Mahila Samiti in order to carry on social work. The government contributes 650 rupees a month ($208) to the school and the Calcutta Corporation gave a lump sum of 1,200 rupees ($384) during 1926-27, and made a monthly contribution of 350 rupees ($112). About 1,500 rupees ($480) a month are required for the maintenance of the institution. Besides being a training place for instructresses of the association, the school gives instruction in cottage industries to needy women, who are thus provided with a means of earning an honest living, and at the same time gives them a general education.

Activities of the Mahila Samitis

The activities of the affiliated Mahila Samitis are very numerous and include public health work, maternity and child welfare work, instruction in cottage and domestic industries, exhibitions, care of kitchen gardens, women's classes for general instruction, organization of girls' schools and rural reconstruction work.

Public health, child welfare and maternity work

During 1927, district and municipal health officers, civil and assistant surgeons and private practitioners aided the institutes in public health work. The publicity officers gave lectures on first aid, health and hygiene at several places. A course of lectures in first aid and home nursing

was organized by one institute, lectures on the health of mothers and children were given by another. A few of the Samitis have established maternity wards, one at a cost 3,000 rupees ($960) raised by the members. In cooperation with local bodies, midwife training classes were held during the year by a number of institutes, for seven of which a grant was received from the public health department. A baby clinic demonstration and a lantern lecture on child welfare were given by one Samiti.

Cottage industries

Cottage industries were very popular in 1927, and every one of the 158 institutes conducted an industrial class. In addition the 7 trained instructresses employed by the central association visited 12 institutes each one staying 3 months at each place. In one Samiti the work began with a sum of 5 rupees ($1.60) which was increased to 100 rupees ($32) in six months. One Samiti maintained three centers for training women in handicrafts.

Gardens

Gardening is becoming one of the important projects of the Mahila Samitis. The first garden was started by the president of the association. In 1927, five institutes carried on garden work. Some of the members raised fine kitchen gardens which proved a source of saving to the family budget. A large garden was managed cooperatively by 10 members of one institute, with the result that they not only had fresh vegetables for themselves, but sold them to their neighbors, thus making the garden pay for itself. Gardening has proved a delightful pastime and has provided members with much needed exercise.

General education of women

For the first time in the history of the country, general education is being provided for women through the work of the Mahila Samitis. A remarkable instance of this was in the district of Birbhum where a class of 50 Mohammedan women were taught by the president and the secretary of the institute. Twenty-six members of another institute were taught English, Bengali, history, geography, mathematics, sewing, and cutting. One institute had talks, discussions and lectures on cultural subjects, health and hygiene at every meeting during the year. A class of 10 institute members met every Sunday to read and to write essays which they sent to the central association for examination. Members of the Samitis are encouraged to take more interest in and become more efficient in domestic work. Their attention is called to the advantage of practising economy and reducing family expenses, and in learning to make articles used in the home which were formerly purchased.

Education of girls

The importance of educating girls and keeping them in school for a longer time than is generally the case is emphasized in the meetings of the Mahila Samitis. Mothers become interested in the education of their girls, and in this way a desire for their own education is aroused. In many places where there were no girls' schools, the Samitis have often

started one. In well established schools they have organized sports, and encouraged the teaching of cooking and domestic arts, needle work and spinning by giving prizes.

Social work

Most of the social work of the institutes is carried on in the villages or country districts. Through them social intercourse is being stimulated and a spirit of helpfulness and social service promoted among the women. In one case the marriage of a girl of ten was prevented, the mother consenting to wait until she was sixteen. When a fire burned down a number of Mohammedan huts the members of the Mahila Samiti in the town took in the women and children until other shelter was found for them. In one locality where women never went outside of their homes without a conveyance, through the influence of the Samiti most of them now go on foot to one another's houses and some even travel by tram car, an unheard-of thing a short time ago. Through creating a community spirit, providing instruction for women; promoting knowledge of hygiene, maternity and child welfare; establishing girls' schools, training midwives, and encouraging cottage industries, the Mahila Samitis are taking the lead in the work of rural reconstruction. Their enthusiasm is also reaching the men who are aiding the women in village reconstruction work by organizing cooperative societies and in other ways. The Mahila Samitis recognize no racial nor communal restriction, members of every class, race, and caste working together for the common good. Several of the institutes have Mohammedan members and a Mohammedan woman is the vice president of one institute. A number of Mohammedan men and women are members of the central association, which has been making special efforts for the benefit of the Mohammedan community with the result that two Samitis have been organized entirely of Mohammedan women. Social rank is not recognized, women in high social position meeting on a basis of perfect equality with those of the poorest class. One remarkable result of the work of the association during 1927 was the holding of meetings in Bengal in which rural women for the first time took part with men without the intervention of the purdah. Thus a new status of dignity and respect is being accorded country women and they are enabled to take part in uplift work without hiding their faces from men.

Madras

An effective method of introducing improved practices. - The organization of cooperative agricultural associations has been found to be the most effective method of introducing improved agricultural practices among the peasants of Madras Presidency. The origin of these societies in the Trichonopoly and Tanjore Districts of Madras has been outlined by the assistant director of agriculture, the extension officer of the Madras Department of Agriculture in charge of this region.

In these two districts rice is the principal crop for food and occupies about one-half of the area under cultivation. In 1915, efforts were first made to introduce improved farm practices, which included use of improved strains and seeds, economic planting of seedlings in thinly sown nurseries, use of light iron plows, better systems of raising green manure crops, and use of cheap phosphate fertilizers. At that time the assistant director had a staff of only one or two itinerant workers, whose usual plan was to meet the peasants in the villages, find out what practices they employed, and suggest improvements, which were brought to their attention by demonstrations whenever possible. Though the extension workers received some response from the natives, only one or two were really interested in the improved practices and most of them ridiculed the idea of the improvements until they saw the results of the better practices, and even then they were hard to convince that the better condition of the land was not responsible for better crops. Groups of peasants were also taken to the government farms to see what was being done there. Pamphlets, leaflets, and villagers' calendars treating of the improved practices were distributed to the peasants.

Efforts first made to introduce improvements

In 1923, demonstration plots began to be used as a means of introducing improved practices. These were plots in central villages on the peasants' own land, grown under the supervision of the extension workers at the owners' expense, and as the staff of subordinate officers was larger by this time, demonstrations were conducted in several centers. The plots were located as far as possible by the roadside in full view of peasants who passed by to enable them to watch the crops and operations conducted to convince them that the improved practices and not any peculiar condition of the land caused the good yields.

Demonstration plots

The next step was an effort to induce cooperative credit societies to undertake demonstrations with the hope of interesting the members. Though several societies began the work, very little progress was made in interesting members, as the peasants usually join these organizations with the sole object of borrowing money. As none of these methods had led to the general adoption of improved practices, the government decided to try the experiment of organizing special cooperative societies interested in agricultural improvements and carry on the work through them. The first society of this kind was started at Lalgudy for the purpose of demonstrating agricultural improvements recommended by the department with check plots on the members' land or on leased land, seeds, manures and improved implements being distributed to members and nonmembers. When the land was leased for conducting demonstrations the department made the following arrangements to compensate for loss which might occur from seasonal conditions:

Organization of cooperative agricultural societies

Conditions of conducting demonstrations

One or more members should conduct the demonstrations on about 10 acres of their own land on the condition that the necessary seed and fertilizers should be advanced, and the wages of coolies should be paid by the society; the articles advanced should be paid back at harvest time in addition to a small portion of the extra net profit, if any; and in case of loss, the society should not share it.

Methods adopted by Lalgudy Society

In the case of the Lalgudy cooperative agricultural society about 9½ acres of land situated along the roadside was leased at an annual rent of about 2,800 pounds of rice per acre. On about two acres the improved practices mentioned were demonstrated separately and all together, on one acre the local method of cultivation was adopted as a check plot, and on the remainder, 6½ acres, the improved practices were used. The society acted as agent for the supply of special manures, improved implements, selected seeds, and the like. At the end of a year it was found that the society had carried out its part of the agreement. Encouraged by its success with this society the department organized five more during 1926-27, and very satisfactory results were obtained from demonstrations conducted by some of the societies.

Results of demonstrations by societies

In spite of the difficulty of persuading peasants to form agricultural societies and the great amount of departmental supervision necessary when they are started, gratifying results have been obtained from this method of introducing improved farm practices. As a result of demonstrations conducted by the cooperative societies, a larger number of peasants, both members and nonmembers, are adopting improved practices, and there has been increased purchase of improved implements, seeds, and manures from these societies. Everything points to the conclusion that cooperative agricultural societies are perhaps the best means of quickly introducing agricultural improvements in a country where the farming people constitute more than 70 per cent of the population, though a great deal has still to be done to overcome their prejudice and superstition.